

February 2010 School Board NEWS RELEASE
La Harpe Community School District #347

The La Harpe school board met Tuesday night, February 16, 2010 in the district library. Board members in attendance were Pres. Cindy Wear, Mark Irish, Pam Campbell, Rex Huston, Deanna Stambaugh, and Darren Spangler. Also present were Supt. Jo Campbell, Prin. Lila McKeown, Jeanne Clayton and visitors Melissa Johnson and Tracy Wedell.

Melissa Johnson presented results of the recently completed Response to Intervention (RtI) universal screening. Using a 3-Year comparison and a Fall-to-Winter comparison of student scores, Johnson provided evidence of consistent student gains. Johnson noted new portions of the program which have been added including junior high partner reading and a 6-minute solution. RtI is a method of instructional intervention designed to pinpoint educational needs and efficiently provide assistance to students who are having difficulty learning.

Superintendent Campbell gave a synopsis of the financial crisis of the state of Illinois as it impacts La Harpe School District, and stated the impending need for difficult decisions regarding the future of school programs. The financial overview Supt. Campbell presented may be accessed on the school website through a link on the home page.

The school board directed the superintendent to prepare appropriate reduction-in-force notices for consideration by the board at the March 16, 2010 school board meeting, and scheduled a public hearing regarding the question of reduction-in-force, to be held at 6:30 p.m. prior to the board meeting on March 16, 2010.

In addition to approving previous board minutes, the financial report and payment of bills, the school board accepted with regrets the letter of retirement from Carolyn Moore for a Kindergarten position, letter of resignation from Anna Rodeffer for bus aide position, and the letter of retirement submitted by Laurie Myers. The board approved Heather Soule as bus aide, Deanna Hartrick as girls' junior high track coach, and both Lisa Trout and Kathy Akers as substitutes for paraprofessionals and support personnel. The school board accepted a bus communication device bid, approved the second reading of district policy updates as presented, and approved the deletion of closed session recordings made at least 18 months prior to the current meeting as per district policy 2:220.

Principal McKeown gave athletic updates on volleyball and basketball and recounted student council winter activities and school valentine celebrations. Illini West principal, Brad Gooding, and several high school students visited the La Harpe 8th graders for a question and answer session about "Life at Illini West". Sixty-eight students participated in the annual CHIP Program which aids in the identification and recovery of missing children and is efficiently presented by area Masons. McKeown praised teachers Myers and Hitz for their lesson plan books; Myers, Faul and Sholl for school website news; and Palmer for the "Munch and Read" after-school program.

Regularly scheduled LCSD #347 board meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month in the school library at 7:00 p.m. We invite you to view agendas, news releases and approved minutes on the school board section of the La Harpe Eagles website at www.laharpeeagles.org